

appropriate we recognize the value of this under-appreciated database as Congress prepares to take steps to prevent database piracy. MICROMEDEX, of Englewood, Colorado and the producer of POISINDEX®, has grave concerns that unless we close a gap in the law its work could be stolen, an act of piracy that could endanger the safety of many people.

Some might argue that the more widely we distribute information about poisons and their antidotes, the better. Although this notion is well intended, it is also misguided and could have serious consequences. Scientific knowledge is constantly moving forward, and as a result, medical information can rapidly go out-of-date. The POISINDEX® team of 125 industry expert editors is dedicated—as a business and as corporate citizens—to providing unbiased information of unsurpassed breadth and depth. For 25 years they have invested a lot of time, money and effort doing precisely that. The problem is, a commitment to the integrity of the information is not necessarily shared by people who would pirate the contents of POISINDEX® and distribute or sell them on the Internet or elsewhere. This is the type of “sweat of the brow” databases that Congress needs to prevent from being pirated.

If POISINDEX® can be copied and distributed by pirates, it raises a truly frightening specter: the emergency team searching frantically for information, only to find it is incomplete, out-of-date or inaccurate. Imagine yourself as the parent in that nightmare.

Legislation pending before the House, H.R. 354, of which I am a cosponsor, will prevent database piracy and ensure that POISINDEX® will continue to help save lives. By preventing piracy, H.R. 354 maintains the incentives database publishers need to stay in business. It also encourages competition within this growing industry, which will lead to the creation of more high quality products.

Yes, POISINDEX® is an extreme example with potentially extreme consequences. But even in less dire cases, the principle is the same. Unless we do something about database piracy, we will undermine the commitment of producers to build and maintain the integrity and accuracy of the databases we depend on every day.

We can all be grateful to MICROMEDEX for creating and maintaining such a vital product, and for showing how accurate information can literally save lives. It is the most graphic example I can imagine of how poison prevention and database protection go hand-in-hand.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this year's National Poison Prevention Week and timely action on H.R. 354. We must prevent database piracy and maintain the integrity of databases that are critical to us all. We owe that to every child and every parent who picks up that phone in their moment of distress.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING NOTU ON ITS 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) in Florida's 15 Congressional District is celebrating its 50th birthday this year, and I want to extend my congratulations to the men and women who work at NOTU today, and to those who have supported its vital mission in the past.

In 1956, NOTU became the site for all test firings of the Fleet Ballistic Missile Program, launching first from land and then from submerged submarines a continuous series of Polaris, Poseidon, and, today, Trident missiles. Although NASA and Air Force space launches are the most publicized, the Navy is the largest user of the Eastern Range at Cape Canaveral, conducting over half of the missile firings on the Range.

NOTU's anniversary happens to fall in the same year as the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Submarine Force. On October 12, 1900, the U.S. Navy commissioned the first submarine, the U.S.S. *Holland*, so this year is even more special for the people of NOTU. I'm pleased that there is an effort underway in Congress to honor this important national achievement, and I am a proud cosponsor of House Resolution 397 that does just that.

But it gets even better—this year is also the 50th anniversary of the first launch from Florida's Space Coast. Bumper 8, a captured German V-2 rocket, was launched on July 24, 1950 at 9:28 a.m.

We'll be celebrating all three of these important anniversaries on April 1 in Florida, one of several events planned, and I want to thank everyone involved—including NOTU, the 45th Space Wing, NASA's Kennedy Space Center, the aerospace industry, and a very supportive community—for their hard work during this important trio of anniversaries.

NOTU continues to be a vital part of Florida's Space Coast. They have played a role in the rich heritage of Florida for half a century, and I know they will continue to serve this nation with honor for another half century and beyond.

GOLDEN APPLE SCHOLAR AWARDS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commend the 2000 Golden Apple Scholar award winners from my district. The Golden Apple Scholars program is to recruit talented high school juniors who want to become teachers.

I would like to take the opportunity to recognize Ms. Shalonda Carr from Lanphier High School in Springfield, Illinois. Teachers, like parents, have a unique opportunity to touch the life of a child. I can't think of a more rewarding experience.

March 23, 2000

As you know, Mr. Speaker, I was a former high school teacher. I want to wish Shalonda all the same joy and success that I shared in my teaching career.

TRIBUTE TO THE SIMI VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC DE-CATHLON TEAM

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the California State Champion Simi Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team.

The Simi Valley team's win this past weekend was impressive, beating last year's National Champions by a mere 21 points. Last year's National Champions also hail from my district—Moorpark High School. The two have been trading the Ventura County title for the past eight years, and now have the distinction of trading the California State title.

Next month, Simi Valley High School will travel to San Antonio, Texas, where they will compete against 37 other schools from across the United States in an attempt to capture the National Champion title for Ventura County for the second consecutive year.

The nine-student Simi Valley High School team is representative of the best and brightest our country has to offer. They have been accepted to such universities as Harvard and Stanford. Seniors David Bartlett, Steve Mihalovitz, Cary Opal, Jeff Robertson, Jennifer Tran, Michael Truex, Justin Underhill, Randy Xu and junior Kevin White are truly America's future leaders. Their coach, Ken Hibbitts, is a dedicated educator who deserves equal praise for a phenomenal job of preparing his students.

Whatever the outcome in San Antonio, Simi Valley High School has proven that Ventura County is an educational powerhouse. They have also proven that Ventura County students and teachers have the dedication and perseverance to be the best they can possibly be. It takes months of studying from early morning to late at night to prepare for these competitions. Jobs, friends and family are placed on the back burner.

Coach Hibbitts says his team has the dedication and determination to win a national award. They will be champions either way.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating the California State Champion Simi Valley High School Academic Decathlon Team for its impressive win this week, and in wishing the team great success in the national championships.

HONORING THE MARCH ON SELMA

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 23, 2000

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, it's truly an honor to join those distinguished colleagues